

CHRONOLOGY OF THE AGENDA ITEM

RFP 21-522R1 Behavior Intervention Services

- ☐ Extension – continuation; extend the period of time

There are an increasing number of students with mental health and social-emotional challenges. The need for highly qualified and capable behavior intervention providers to provide behavioral consultative and direct services to students with disabilities that are enrolled in DeKalb County School District (DCSD) has continued to increase. DCSD employs full-time special education liaisons who provide itinerant services for students with disabilities that demonstrate significant behavioral concerns. However, due to the increasing number of students requiring these services, there is a need for additional service providers who can provide supplemental behavioral consultative and direct services for student who require them. These services include, but are not limited to, in-school consultations, program development, trainings, various types of behavioral analysis and interpretation. DCSD does not currently employ a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). As a result, DCSD's Department of Exceptional Education has contracted with private vendors to meet this very important need. Currently, there are seven (7) behavior liaisons that are district employees. There are seven (7) private vendors that currently support the District with meeting this need. The total year-to-date cost incurred by these vendors for the 2023-2024 school year, due to the hourly rate and number of BCBA's needed, is \$361,653.90. The total anticipated cost for the remainder of the school year is \$250,000.

The District hired a BCBA during the 2020-2021 school; however, that position has been vacant since January 2021. Private vendors continue to be required to provide this level of support.

Request for Proposals were issued October 27, 2020. On November 23, 2020, twelve (12) proposals were reviewed by the District's purchasing department and deemed responsive and responsible to the requirements of the solicitation.

As part of the Pre-Award process, the Department of Exceptional Education conducted a review and evaluation of the 12 responsive proposals during the week of December 14, 2020. The review and evaluation of the proposals resulted in three (3) vendors not being recommended to provide behavior intervention services for students with disabilities and nine (9) being recommended for approval. However, only seven (7) vendors have been recommended to provide services for 2024-25 school year. This recommendation is based on the review and evaluation of the responsive proposals received.